

Congressman Bobby L. Rush (D-Ill.)
Transcript of Remarks on Subtitle D
Energy and Commerce Committee Markup on Build Back Better Act
September 14, 2021

RUSH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Subtitle D includes vital investments that are critical to President Biden's Build Back Better Agenda. It ensures funding for the Clean Electricity Performance Program, a Program that provides resources to decarbonize our electricity sector.

It contains billions of dollars of rebates for American homeowners to retrofit their homes in order to reduce energy costs. And also, it invests in the Weatherization Assistance Program, so that low-income homeowners must not be left out of the energy efficiency revolution.

This subtitle also includes some vital provisions from my NO EXHAUST Act to ensure all communities have the resources that they need to embrace an electric vehicle future. Finally, it contains funds to revitalize our electric grid that will be the backbone of our 21st century clean energy economy.

Individually, each of these investments would be worthwhile. Together, they are transformative. They will help our country advance in the fight against the climate crisis. At the same time, they create millions of jobs and ensure that every American has access to the technologies that will drive our economy for the next 100 years.

Critically, the bill before us today makes these investments in an equitable and honorable way. It includes one billion dollars to fund projects deploying electric vehicle infrastructure in underserved or disadvantaged communities. It also provides for \$5.5 billion dollars to fund home electrification projects in low- and middle-income and Tribal households.

Finally, it is worth reiterating, Mr. Chairman, that this package includes \$3.5 billion dollars for the Weatherization Assistance Program, which reduces energy costs for low-income households.

These investments are what we need to truly and equitably Build Back Better. But even with these policies, more work remains to be done.

A recent USA Today article entitled "Jobs in Green Energy Filled with White Men" encapsulates the urgency of ensuring that the impacts of these policies reach Black and Brown Americans. The article cites a concerning report published by E2 just last week, which showed that women and Black workers are vastly underrepresented in the clean energy workforce.

While it is unfortunate that it could not be included in today's package, I look forward to working with the Chairman and the Ranking Member to swiftly pass vital investments in energy workforce development to increase the diversity of the energy sector, including through my Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act.

Mr. Chairman, for now, the bill before us today contains much-needed investments for the American people. My Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute simply makes technical changes to the bill. And I encourage every member of this Committee to vote for this amendment, as well as for the underlying bill. I yield back.